

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of printing a customer image order, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a digital record of a customer order containing a plurality of images;

5 selecting at least one image from said plurality of images for printing as an unenhanced image and as a digitally enhanced image;

digitally enhancing said at least one image; and

printing said digitally enhanced image and said unenhanced image.

10 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said printing step comprises:

printing said enhanced image and said unenhanced image on a single print in a side by side relationship.

15 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said printing step comprises:

printing said enhanced image on an index print and printing said unenhanced image on a standard print.

20 4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting step comprises:

selecting at least one image from said plurality of images where a flesh tone is detected.

25 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting step comprises:

selecting at least one image from said plurality of images where red-eye is detected in the image.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting step comprises:

selecting said at least one image for enhancement based on characteristics of said at least one image which includes at least one of red-eye,
5 tone scale, under exposure compensation, noise reduction and sharpness.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein each of said characteristics is assigned a predetermined weighting factor and the selected image for enhancement has a total weighting factor which is above a threshold
10 value.

8. A method according to claim 6, wherein each of said characteristics is assigned a value and said value is used to generate a message or information for a consumer.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein said unenhanced image is a digitally rendered image to simulate an optical image and said digitally enhanced image is digitally rendered with superior quality to said unenhanced image.
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10. A method according to claim 1, wherein said printing step comprises:
20 printing the unenhanced image on a first index print and printing the enhanced image on a second index print.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting step comprises:
25 selecting at least one image from said plurality of images where a face is detected.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein said selecting step comprises:

disqualifying any images from said plurality of images where the image has inappropriate content, high grain, a poorly composed image content, out of focus images or other objectionable image artifacts.

5 13. A method according to claim 1, wherein said unenhanced image is an optically generated print.

10 14. A method according to claim 1, wherein said enhanced image is printed on a first print which is printed inline with a second print having said unenhanced image.

15 15. A method according to claim 1, wherein said enhanced image is printed on a first print by a first printer and said unenhanced image is printed on a second print by a second printer

20 16. An imaging system comprising:
an image data manager adapted to receive image data representative of a customer image order and select at least one image from said customer order for rendering as an unenhanced image and as a digitally enhanced image.

25 17. An imaging system according to claim 16, further comprising:
a printer for printing said unenhanced image and said digitally enhanced image on a single print in an adjacent manner.

 18. An imaging system according to claim 16, further comprising:
a printer for printing said unenhanced image on an index print and said digitally enhanced image on a standard print.

30 19. An imaging system according to claim 16, further comprising:

a printer for printing said unenhanced image on a first print and said digitally enhanced image on a second print.

20. An imaging system according to claim 16, wherein said image
5 data manager is operationally communicated with an internet connection to transfer said unenhanced image and said digitally enhanced image to a remote personal computer for display on the computer.

21. An imaging system according to claim 16, wherein said image
10 data manager is operationally communicated with a kiosk connector to transfer said unenhanced image and said digitally enhanced image to a remote kiosk computer for display on the kiosk.

22. An imaging system according to claim 16, wherein said
15 unenhanced image is printed on a first print by a first printer and said enhanced image is printed on a second print by a second printer.

23. A method of offering imaging services comprising the steps
of:
20 selecting at least one image from a customer order for rendering as an unenhanced image and as a digitally enhanced image;
applying enhancement algorithms to said selected image to create the digitally enhanced image; and
displaying said unenhanced image and said enhanced image on an
25 electronic display.

24. A method according to claim 23, further comprising:
providing said unenhanced image and said digitally enhanced
image on a CD.

25. A method according to claim 23, wherein said displaying step comprises displaying said unenhanced image and said enhanced image in a side by side manner on the display.

5 26. A method according to claim 23, wherein said displaying step comprises:
 sending the unenhanced image and the enhanced image to a remote computer for display on the remote computer.

10 27. A method according to claim 23, comprising the step of:
 assigning a value representative of an amount of enhancement to said selected image.

 28. A method according to claim 27, comprising the further step
of:
15 sending information to a remote computer which includes said
value.

 29. A method according to claim 27, comprising the further step
of:
 using said value to generate messages for transfer to a consumer.

20 30. A method of creating a comparison print comprising the steps
of:
 placing an unenhanced image on a first portion of a comparison
print; and
25 placing a digitally enhanced rendering of the same image on a
second portion of the comparison print.

 31. A method according to claim 30, wherein said second portion
of said comparison print is adjacent to said first portion, to permit a viewer to

view and compare the unenhanced image on the first portion of the print and digitally enhanced rendering of the image on the second portion of the print.

- 5 32. A comparison print comprising:
 a first portion having an image thereon; and
 a second portion having a digitally enhanced rendering of the same
image thereon.

- 10 33. A comparison print according to claim 32, further comprising
a third portion having an informational message pertinent to at least the digitally
enhanced image thereon.

- 15 34. A method of printing a customer image order, the method
comprising the steps of:
 obtaining a digital record of a customer order containing a plurality
of images;
 selecting at least one image from said plurality of images for
printing as an unenhanced image and as a digitally enhanced image; and
 printing said digitally enhanced image and said unenhanced image.